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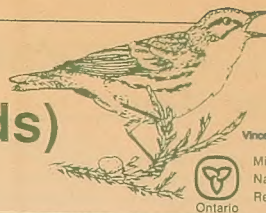
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# Blackstone Harbour (Massasauga Wildlands) Provincial Park



Vincent G. Kerrio  
Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

## Interim Management Statement



Blackstone Harbour (Massasauga Wildlands) Provincial Park has been under consideration for over 20 years, and during that period there have been significant changes and developments. It was originally viewed as an area potentially available for intensive recreation, but further research indicated the fragility of the ecological base, leading to a re-appraisal. The significance of the resource values, the location relative to

southern Ontario, the presence of an established population dating back at least a century, and the complexity of current trends and use pressures, all suggest a need to protect and preserve the area, and to manage it carefully for the benefit of current and future generations.

During this period, the Township of the Archipelago was formed in the Thirty Thousand Islands and adjoining

mainland and inland lakes, including the area of the proposed park. An Official Plan and zoning By-law have been put in place, and the ongoing conservation of the area has been successfully managed with excellent cooperation between the Township and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Since the proposed park lies wholly within the Township of the Archipelago, there has been ongoing dialogue between the

Ministry and the Township to ensure a meshing of local and provincial interests in the development of these interim management strategies.

The current interim management statement establishes reasonable guidelines for the management of these resources in the period from now until the formal management plan has been prepared and approved.

### PURPOSE OF AN INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

- To recognize the Ministry's intent to establish a new provincial park as approved by District Land Use Guidelines, and the Cabinet decision on new parks in May 1988.

- To provide details on the implementation of the December 1988 park policy procedure as it applies to specific uses in this park.

- To confirm the custodial management that is necessary to protect park resources/

values (the reason the area was made a part of the park system).

- To provide direction to staff on their resource management responsibilities to ensure that values are not adversely affected prior to the preparation, approval and implementation of a park management plan.

- To not alter existing land uses (unless they are jeopardizing park values) without appropriate consultation.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Blackstone Harbour (Massasauga Wildlands) constitutes a significant natural heritage resource. At 11,976 hectares it provides representation of the nationally significant 30,000 Islands on Georgian Bay and adjoining inland lakes. It has the ability to meet the protection/heritage appreciation and recreation/tourism objectives of the park system to varying degrees dependent on the limits of the resource carrying capacity.

It has significant values with respect to earth sciences, life sciences, history, archaeology, and cultural heritage, which can be briefly summarized for the purposes of interim management, as follows. The area is provincially significant

from an earth science perspective by representing the Parry Sound Greenstone Belt geology. This belt consists of four groups and a number of geological formations, and all are represented in the park, with quality varying from good to excellent. Other bedrock forms include dikes and lava flows, and the area also exhibits gouges, chatter marks and ground moraine from the more recent glacial period.

With respect to the life sciences, the park provides representation of the Georgian Bay coastal/mainland area of ecological Site District 5E-7. It typifies the range of landscape/habitat types which exist from the outer islands to the mainland, a diversity not



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otherwise evident in the park system. It includes 15 percent of the known site types in Site Region SE, and five of these site types are best represented in this park.

Ten vegetative associations have been identified in the park, including coniferous forest, mixed forest (2 key sub-types: (a) Prairie Warbler habitat, and (b) Georgian Bay windswept trees); sphagnum bogs; alder swamps; marshes; beaver meadows; aquatic habitats (with an important array of significant species, many related to the Atlantic coastal plain).

Some 22 of the 64 rare provincial vascular plants in the region are found here. Of the 29 significant avifaunal species in the region, 12 are found here (in particular, Prairie Warbler and Osprey). Of the 20 significant mammals in the region, three are found in the area (wolf, lynx, meadow jumping mouse). Of the 20 significant reptiles and amphibians in the region, 6 are found in the park (the key ones are the Massasauga rattlesnake, hybrid toad, eastern fox snake, blue-tailed skink).

From an historical perspective, the area provides representation

of five broad historical themes (Table 1).

Archaeological sites believed to relate to early native settlement have been identified in the area. The early settlement is represented by the following remains: Baker homestead (north of Blackstone Harbour), Meyers homestead (Moon Falls), Moody building (near Bakers), and the Gropp farm. The forest industries relate to the 1890's pine, hemlock and hardwood markets. Remains can be found at Port Rawson Bay, Spider Lake, Horseshoe Falls and Sucker Creek. Early mining is illustrated by the Wilcox Mine on Anthony Island and on Spider Lake. Additional historical themes relating to 'Bay' transportation (shipping) and recreational activity (early resorts/cottages) remain yet to be studied.

Therefore, from a protection/heritage appreciation point of view, Blackstone Harbour (Massasauga Wildlands) Park is second only to Algonquin Park in significance within site region SE for its natural/cultural resource diversity. This diversity provides for an array of unique and special

recreational opportunities, many of which are already evident in the area including cottaging, boating, sailing, fishing, cruising, canoeing, back-country camping, hunting and many winter activities. Commercial establishments around this area (including lodges, resorts and youth camps) use these opportunities for their clientele.

This area is close to southern Ontario, which indicates that external pressures on this resource will continue to mount. This puts a special emphasis on concerted custodial care during the period of interim management until the Park Management Plan is in place to chart a long-term course for resource use and resource management.

Table 1  
HISTORICAL THEMES

Theme	Theme Segment	Significance/ Quality of Representation
Environmental Frontiersmen	Shield Archaic	P/P
Early Settlement	South Shield Agriculture	P/G
Forest Industries	Georgian Bay Watershed	P/M
Mining	South Shield Small Scale Mining	P/M
Recreation/ Conservation	Early Recreation	P/G
	Resort Era	P/G
	Car and Cottage	P/G
Significance: P - Provincial R - Regional L - Local		Quality: G - Good M - Moderate P - Poor

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

After 20 years of planning activity and a decade of examining the philosophy appropriate for the area, the major significant issues have become focused through study and discussion with various ratepayer/ municipal/Ministry liaison committees. These can be listed and then briefly discussed:

1. Philosophy for the area
2. Name of the park
3. Promotional profile
4. Area boundary and adjacent land use patterns
5. Access points
6. Road access
7. Boat cruising/mooring

### 1. PHILOSOPHY FOR THE AREA

There is a desire to have the park reflect a 'protection' resource management philosophy, consistent with the

### 2. NAME OF THE PARK

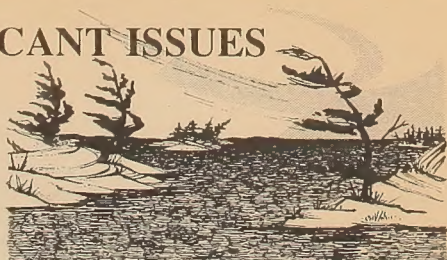
There is a desire to augment this philosophy by selecting a name for the park that would

8. Boat-in camping
9. Canoe camping
10. Youth camp use
11. Motors on watercraft on inland lakes
12. Hunting
13. Snowmobiling
14. Consultation with residents and township.

These issues will, of course, be dealt with in the context of the Park Management Plan. Here, for purposes of the Interim Management Statement, the issues are briefly summarized. Subsequent discussion on Page 5 provides guidelines to deal with these issues in this interim period.

limited ecological carrying capacity, and to accommodate certain of the current uses on an extensive basis.

reflect the area's primary values and geography, and support the principles of protecting the



ecology and of a low level of environmental loading. There is also an evident concern that if the name were to include the word 'Archipelago', it might create confusion in the public perception that the whole of the Township of the Archipelago was public land. Similarly, the name 'Blackstone', covering areas both inside and outside the proposed park, including roads that will not access the park area, may also cause confusion. Therefore, a name change appears to be appropriate.

In recognition of the geographic extent and the resource values

in the park area, it has been suggested that Massasauga Wildlands may more effectively capture the essence of this diverse area and its representative and special life science resources. This name would also focus attention on the need to protect a portion of the habitat of an endangered faunal species that is under growing pressure from man's development activities.

Therefore, the preferred name is Massasauga Wildlands and is reflected in the title. This name will be subject to discussion through the park management planning process for this park.



## 3. PROMOTIONAL PROFILE

Because of the unusual resource values of the park area, the current levels of use, the relative ease of access to the area, and its proximity to southern Ontario, it is important not to have high-profile promotion, as that would tend to increase pressure on the

ecological base and thus inadvertently subvert the conservation aims for the area. The obvious implication is that any promotion should be kept to the absolute minimum, and should emphasize the 'conservation' goal of the park.

## 4. AREA BOUNDARY AND ADJACENT LAND USE PATTERNS

The question of park boundaries has been an issue ever since the park was first proposed. It emerged significantly in the mid 1970's, when the present land assembly was apparent, and again in 1985, during the notification process for regulation under the Provincial Parks Act. With the explanation of the rationale for the present boundaries to interest groups this main issue appears to be satisfied. A second related issue which has emerged as a result of public input and further research, is that of adequate protection of park values as

they may be affected by adjacent land use patterns outside the boundary of the park. It is evident that parallel and cooperative policies in both the Official Plan (and zoning) of the Township of the Archipelago and in the District Land Use Strategy of the Ministry of Natural Resources would assist materially in this respect. The specifics of such policies can be most appropriately developed through the formal park management planning process and associated public consultation.

## 5. ACCESS POINTS

The issue of access points emerged very clearly during the twenty year history of the park's evolution. The basic principle is that access which encourages intensive use would destroy the basic park values, and this relates directly to the

subordinate issue of road access. Thus the issue emerges of limited low-level access from carefully selected key points which emphasize the principle of a water access park, with a limited scale of facilities.



## 6. ROAD ACCESS

This issue arose very early and was essentially disposed of by abandoning the original idea of an intensively developed recreation area. The over-riding principle of conserving the area for future generations, and protecting the ecological base, led to the conclusion that there should be no further road access

to or through the area, concentrating on water access as the real alternative. This is in accord with the Official Plan policy of the Township and the Ministry Land Use Guidelines, of no additional road development through public or private lands.

## 7. BOAT CRUISING/MOORING

With the recent increase in boating of all kinds, and in the face of trends which suggest existing numbers doubling within a generation, the issue of boat cruising and mooring, and the associated deterioration of certain mooring areas through pollution from boats, indicate



that this matter is not only an issue throughout the Georgian Bay area but also in specific local areas. Thus the mooring of boats to shore or in off-shore anchorages becomes a significant planning issue.

An interim strategy must be developed to gain control over these matters within the park area and its environs, as a basis for the Park Management Plan to deal with it in a broader policy context. The interim strategy should identify what facilities, if any, are needed; and if so, where they should be provided, to what scale, and how enforcement is to be carried out. One important aspect of this issue is to ensure a reasonable degree of privacy and quiet enjoyment to the residents and other users of the area. Possibilities include:

- i) designating certain shores and waters as prohibited for mooring and anchorages (e.g. near residences);
- ii) designating other specific shores and waters as appropriate for mooring and anchorage areas;
- iii) undertaking scientific studies to monitor the problems and develop strategies for their resolution.

## 8. BOAT-IN CAMPING

Some boaters camp in the area and pursue various recreational activities such as fishing or swimming. Some sites along congested travel corridors show obvious signs of over-use. The basic issue is whether, how much, and where this should be permitted. Once again, the

obvious task of interim management is a holding action, to exert control so as not to exacerbate these problems, and to provide a basis for later more comprehensive planning by preventing additional incompatible uses.

## 9. CANOE CAMPING

This use takes place both on the Georgian Bay shore and on the inland lakes in the area. Again, the issues are how much, and where, should this use be

permitted? The task of interim management is control and protection until there issues are settled in the Park Management Plan.

## 10. YOUTH CAMP USE

Existing youth camps now use the area, and as these are careful, responsible users of the area who foster an awareness of the fragility of Ontario's natural environment and the specific special qualities of this particular area, their ability to

use the area should not be adversely affected by plans for the area. The obvious task for interim management is to protect what exists and to prevent adverse changes until the Park Management Plan is in place.

## 11. MOTORS ON WATERCRAFT ON INLAND LAKES

As this area comes closest to providing a 'wilderness type' experience so near to large urban centres, and as the ecological base may have a low carrying capacity, the issue of

motors on watercraft on inland lakes arises. The basic philosophy is that it may be desirable to phase out or limit the horsepower of motorized watercraft on the inland lakes.



This will help to ensure that such areas retain their 'wilderness character' in perpetuity. Since these inland lakes are readily accessible by very short portages either from the bay or adjacent lakes this

does not appear to impose a hardship for most users. This issue will require discussion with residents who use the area before there are any changes in policy.

## 12. HUNTING

Hunting is an existing use in the area that affects local residents and visitors. This includes big game, waterfowl and upland game. Any changes in policy will take place through the park management planning process. This will be affected by specific

park policy and zoning prescriptions for the park. (For example, hunting is not permitted in wilderness or nature reserve zones in provincial parks by approved government policy, May 1988.)

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES

The purpose of interim management is to apply development control principles in a two-fold fashion:

- a) to ensure custodial care of this resource pending the adoption in formal statutory form of the Park Management Plan guiding long-term management; and
- b) where possible, to provide

solutions in the short-term to problems which have been identified.

On this basis, the guidelines which follow are interim control measures to cover the period between the time the interim management statement is approved and the adoption of the formal park management plan.

## PRELIMINARY POLICY

### CLASSIFICATION

That Blackstone Harbour (Massasauga Wildlands) Provincial Park be a Natural Environment class park, with an appropriate area or areas, yet to be defined, planned to be set aside as a wilderness core after further research and study. There is to be a clear focus on

the conservation of the ecological base, on natural resource protection, and on non-intensive recreational use of a sort compatible with the prime purpose of protecting the environment and the natural resources.

### GOAL

The goal is to protect the unique and high quality natural landscape of the Blackstone Harbour (Massasauga Wildlands) park area and ensure a quality wildland recreational experience for residents and

visitors by placing management emphasis on resource protection and the provision of recreational opportunities with limited facilities and services accessed by water.

### OBJECTIVES

- i) Protection and Heritage Appreciation: To protect the earth science, life science, landscape and historical-cultural values and resources typical of the 30,000 Islands and adjacent shoreline and inland lakes of this part of Georgian Bay, and to provide appropriate opportunities for public experience of these resource values.
- ii) Recreation and Tourism: To provide opportunities for non-intensive, low-keyed recreational and tourist activities typical of a water-access environment made up of the two characteristic components of the area: the islands in the bay; and the inland lake environments.

## 13. SNOWMOBILING

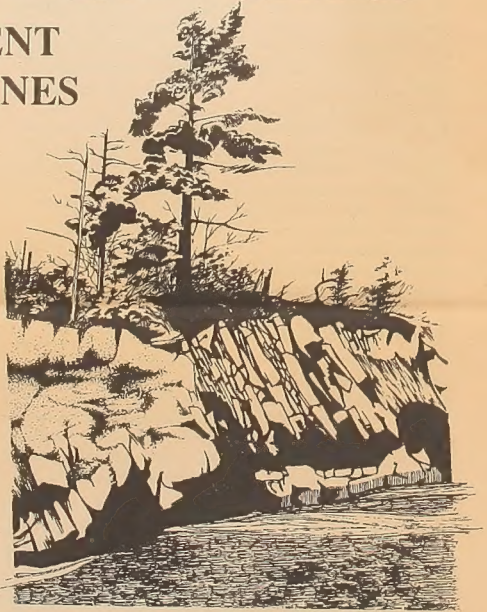
Snowmobiles are currently used for transportation through the area and for good winter communications, especially by permanent residents. Long term needs for the maintenance of these links will require careful

consideration in the park management planning process. This has to be weighed against park values to be protected, especially in the inland lakes area of the park, and may imply designated routes or corridors.

## 14. CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS AND THE TOWNSHIP

Consultation with the area residents and the Township is an important issue. Since the park lies entirely within one municipality, the Township of the Archipelago, and in

recognition of the importance of good coordination of land use policies, active liaison is essential to maintain good working relations between the park and the municipality.



### BOUNDARY

The boundary will encompass the bay and inland lakes and waters and the associated shoreline lands as described in Figure 1: (centrefold) Blackstone Harbour (Massasauga Wildlands) Provincial Park - Proposed Boundary. This boundary excludes patented lands

adjacent to the park and a number of smaller residential properties within the proposed boundaries. This does not preclude further possible modifications of the boundary (additions and deletions) through the formal park management planning process.

### ZONING IN THE PARK

While it is premature, at this stage, to establish definite zoning designations, pending the research and the deliberations of a full park planning process, it is essential to state various principles to guide resource protection, management and use. These recognize existing identified

values, and attempt to protect them during the interim period.

#### Guidelines:

- i) There is a clear need to differentiate between the two characteristic and distinct landscape types and geographical areas within the park, namely the bay and



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the inland lakes. The over-riding objective should be to manage trends so as to ensure both the reality and the perception of 'wilderness' in the inland lakes area, as well as the distinctive character of the islands in the bay.

- ii) In order to protect the key landscape values of the area, it is evident that a large wilderness core may be appropriate in the park, focussing on the inland lakes.
- iii) The major part of the park area will be confined to a natural environment zone pending the completion of a management plan which may identify an acceptable wilderness zone and appropriate policies.

- iv) Throughout the park, areas identified as having values for earth science, life sciences, landscape, historical, cultural and archaeological purposes will be protected in appropriate zones (e.g. nature reserve, historical).
- v) Areas currently used for camping and boating will be identified as quickly as possible and, where appropriate, proposals may be made to continue and properly manage such areas. Where obvious environmental and ecological damage has occurred, steps will be taken to control such areas and to restore environmentally degraded areas.

Depending on the availability of funding, these properties may be purchased over time on the basis of a willing buyer and a willing vendor. However, properties will not be acquired on the basis of exchange for recreational crown lands elsewhere on the 'Bay'. The Park Management Plan will confirm the degree of priority

for the acquisition of these holdings identified as beneficial to the long-term management of this park resource. Arrangements for possible acquisitions within the Township of the Archipelago will be reviewed with the Municipality to ensure coordination of Official Plan and land use policies.

## STUDIES AND COMPATIBLE POLICIES

Studies will be carried out for minor modifications of the park boundary to enclose certain waters which are either significant to the park concept or currently problematic due to use trends. Interim policy will bear this in mind, and it is intended that if there is a legitimate reason to add such areas, this will be approved through the park management plan and implemented by supplementary regulations under the Provincial Parks Act and in consultation with the federal government.

Undeveloped crown lands in the islands area will also be examined for appropriate protection in a wildlands state (e.g. the interior of the north end of Moon Island).

The park management planning process will consider the need for mutually supportive policies on lands adjacent to but outside the park boundary. These policies could be inserted into the District Land Use Guidelines and the Official Plan and implementing zoning by-laws of the Township of the Archipelago if deemed appropriate.

## INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

### LAND TENURE

There are three existing land use permits (LUP) and one licence of occupation (LO) within the park boundary, as set out in Table 2: Land Tenure.

#### Guidelines:

- i) Once the park is in Regulation, the LUP for the residence will be phased out on an equitable basis.
- ii) For the hunt camp see Page 9-Hunting
- iii) The LUP for the septic field will be excluded from the park boundaries.
- iv) The LO in Cowper Township will be excluded from the park boundaries.
- v) The Bell and Hydro cables and line maintenance will be permitted to continue

and expansions will be considered on a need basis.

- vi) No new land tenure will be considered within the park boundaries.

There are a total of 15 patented holdings within the proposed boundaries of the park in the Blackstone Harbour area and there are two large adjacent properties with potential for future inclusion in the park. These are all currently excluded from the legal description of the park. All 17 owners have been aware of MNR interest in acquisition, and discussions have been held with them over a period of 15 years. No other properties are affected.

Table 2  
**LAND TENURE**

#### Land Use Permits

- Pt. Lot 37, Con. V, Conger Twp. - residence
- Pt. Lot 24, Con. II, Cowper Twp. - septic field
- Pt. Lot 4, Con. VII, Cowper Twp. - hunt camp

#### Licence of Occupation

- Pt. Lot 13, Con. I, Cowper Twp. - residence

Bell Canada and Ontario Hydro overhead service lines and submarine cables to service cottages adjacent to the park.

## EXISTING RECREATIONAL USES

Existing development includes the following:

### Boating Sites

There are four former picnic sites in the area: Pilgrim's Rest, Wreck Island, Woods Bay and Devil's Elbow. They were originally set up as day use picnic sites, within or immediately adjacent to the park. They are now essentially used by cruising vessels for extended overnight mooring and limited day use by other boaters.

#### Guidelines:

- i) These four sites will continue to be maintained for overnight mooring and day use recreation.

Facilities such as docks and sanitary services (privies) will be maintained to acceptable standards. Efforts will be made to publicize the limits on cruisers' use of these sites through Georgian Bay marinas, boating organizations, and public and private cruising guides.

- ii) Uses will be monitored and studied.
- iii) Long-term future use of all four sites will be established through research and comprehensive planning studies which determine the appropriateness and location of this use in the entire area.

### Canoe Routes

A major portion of the established South Georgian Bay Canoe Route passes through the park area, including various branches. These routes include associated camp sites, portages, signs and a descriptive brochure.

#### Guidelines:

- i) These routes will continue to be maintained
- ii) Existing camp sites will be maintained to acceptable standards.
- iii) Signs will be included on all portages.

### Snowmobiling

There is an extensive network of informal snowmobile trails throughout the park area, especially in the inland lakes area.

#### Guidelines:

- i) In the interim existing snowmobile use is recognized and will continue unchanged.
- ii) The long-term direction for snowmobiling in the park will be established through the Park Management Plan. This may result in snowmobiling being directed to specific travel corridors.

# Figure 1 BLACKSTONE HARBOUR (Massasauga Wildlands) PROVINCIAL PARK

## PROPOSED BOUNDARY









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## Roads

The Woods Bay Road passes through the southeast end of the park from Healey Lake Road.

### Guidelines:

- i) There will be a minor modification to the park boundary to make the north side of the Woods Bay Road the official park boundary.
- ii) No side roads will be approved for public access to Blackstone Harbour off the Woods Bay Road.
- iii) No additional public road access will be developed in the park area.
- iv) Existing private access roads to Blackstone Harbour serving patented properties will be permitted to continue pending any future acquisition.

## Aircraft

There is increasing concern over the use of aircraft and ultra-light

aircraft within the core inland lakes of the park area. This may not be an appropriate long term use in this area.

### Guidelines:

- i) The use will continue in the interim and be monitored.
- ii) The matter will be dealt with through the Park Management Plan.

## A.T.V.

There is increasing concern over the use of A.T.V.'s within the area. This may not be an appropriate long term use in this area.

### Guidelines:

- i) The use will continue in the interim and be monitored.
- ii) The matter will be dealt with through the Park Management Plan.

overnight mooring areas within the boundaries of or adjacent to the park. These areas provide a valuable and necessary service to the boating community. The long-term harbour locations require some careful study to ensure that good neighbour relations can be established and maintained. In addition, limits on use numbers may be necessary at specific sites to ensure that environmental quality standards are maintained. A relatively small number of heavily used sites exist in the Bay where there appears to be overuse by boaters (e.g. Echo Bay).

### Guidelines:

- i) Existing harbours will be permitted, within reasonable limits.
- ii) Studies will be undertaken through the Park Management Plan to determine the best way to deal with this use in the park area, e.g. the selection of sites with minimal social and environmental impact on the area and its resident community or the

modification of park boundaries to include specific harbour areas.

## Access Points

Access to the area now is by Three Legged Lake, Woods Bay, Twelve Mile Bay and Parry Sound. The Park Management Plan must resolve the long-term access to the park. The principle will be to maintain a water access philosophy as a guiding principle. Interim management will not compromise this concept.

### Guideline:

No new access will be developed to the park.

## Inland Lakes

Long term conservation of these areas may benefit from both a limitation of motorboat horsepower and by a restriction of mechanized watercraft. This could affect the following lakes: Spider, Clear, Canoe, and small side lakes. This issue should be resolved through the park management planning process

### Guideline:

In the interim, current small horsepower boat use will be allowed to continue. However, non-mechanized watercraft use will be encouraged.

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Figure 2 illustrates diagrammatically the inland lakes area and the bay geographical areas. The following discussion differentiates between them, and in certain instances the interim management guidelines will differ in terms of their application to these two distinct areas. Such differences are apparent in the text.

basis consistent with the overall objectives and policy for the area. Interim management shall not prejudice this option.

### Guidelines:

- i) Existing boat-in camping may be permitted to continue until long term policy is developed through the Park Management Plan. Expansion of the number of campsites will not be encouraged. Normal maintenance will be undertaken in the area.
- ii) Use of all such sites will be monitored.

## Harbours of Choice

The area currently has "harbours of choice" or

## Boat-in Campsites

This use occurs now in the area of the bay and the inland lakes with campsites accessed by motorized watercraft. The amount, location and services to be provided should be established through the Park Management Plan process on a

**FIGURE 2 BLACKSTONE HARBOUR  
(Massasauga Wildlands) PROVINCIAL PARK  
GEOGRAPHIC AREAS**





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## LAND USE ADJACENT TO BOUNDARY

There is a concern to establish parallel and compatible land uses on both sides of the park boundaries.

### Guideline:

The District Land Use Guidelines and the Official Plan and zoning by-laws of the Township of the Archipelago may need to be modified to

emphasize the conservation of crown lands adjacent to the boundary (in particular: those lands east of the park boundary, north of the Woods Bay Road) to ameliorate "overflow" effects of development pressures on these lands and inland lakes. Joint study through the park management planning process will be appropriate.

## COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

### TRAPPING

The area includes part of three registered trap lines (PS 172, 173, 174) and three resident trap licences (see Figure 3). The policy is to phase out commercial trapping in a manner least harmful to the economic well-being of the trapper. The management of wildlife populations will continue, consistent with the objective of the park, and under the authority of a wildlife management strategy. This will be prepared with the Park Management Plan.

### Guidelines:

- i) Existing commercial trapping will be phased out over a twenty-one year

period or when the trapper retires or dies, whichever occurs sooner.

- ii) Notice of eventual phase-out will be sent to all trap line owners.

### BAIT FISHING

One bait fishing licence exists on the inland waters of Moon Island, in the park.

### Guidelines:

- i) The existing commercial bait fishing will be phased out within twenty-one years or when an individual retires or dies, whichever is sooner.
- ii) No new licences will be issued in future.

## HUNTING

Hunting currently occurs within the park area. One hunt camp is located within the north end of the park. There are other hunt camps and cottages adjacent to the park which utilize the area for hunting (big game and waterfowl).

### Guidelines:

- i) Following regulation under the Provincial Parks Act, hunting will be allowed to continue in the park area on an interim basis by regulations under the Game and Fish Act until a Park Management Plan is prepared.
- ii) The hunt camp within the park area will be allowed to continue until a Park Management Plan is completed.

permitted to continue using the park area.

- ii) Youth camps will be encouraged to assist in the maintenance of these canoe routes. This may include portages, signs and campsites. Specific sites (lakes and islands) may be designated as appropriate group campsites. This will be decided through the Park Management Plan.

## LODGES

There are no lodges within the boundaries of the park; however, there are lodges among the islands that form part of the park (e.g. Moon Island, Sharpe Island, Crooked Island, etc.). These lodges use the park area for their clientele at various times of the year.

### Guideline:

Lodges will be permitted to continue to use the park area. Use of non-mechanized watercraft (e.g. canoes and rowboats) will be encouraged on the 'inland lakes'.

## YOUTH CAMPS

No youth camps exist within the boundaries of the park; however, a number of youth camps use the park area for canoe trips. This use is appropriate in the park area.

### Guidelines:

- i) Youth camps will be

**FIGURE 3 BLACKSTONE HARBOUR  
(Massasauga Wildlands) PROVINCIAL PARK  
EXISTING TRAPLINES**



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### NATURAL

#### Wildlife

Wildlife management will focus on the maintenance of park species in equilibrium with their habitat. Quotas for furbearers should shift to maintaining species levels in keeping with provincial park objectives rather than commercial harvest levels.

### Guideline:

Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that quotas for species are in conformity

with preliminary park objectives.

#### Fisheries

The major value of the inland lakes area is the inclusion of small watersheds within the park area. These areas are popular with fishermen. The goal should be to maintain species health and work towards the rehabilitation of these waters to provide ideal natural reproducing stocks.



## Guidelines:

- i) Normal angling activity will continue in the park area except where fish sanctuaries may be established.
- ii) Fisheries management will be consistent with the approved Parry Sound District Fishery Management Plan.

## Vegetation

A number of valuable botanical communities have been recognized by past inventory work. The goal should be to protect these habitats.

## Guidelines:

- i) Provide interim protection of the significant life science resources by preliminary nature reserve zone designation and appropriate enforcement.
- ii) No commercial forest resource harvesting will be permitted.
- iii) Rehabilitation of former (acquired) cottage sites may be undertaken using native species.

## CULTURAL - EXISTING SITES

A series of archaeological sites have been tentatively identified.

These sites are almost entirely quarry sites believed to be related to the Shield Archaic. The site material appears to be most durable. In addition, a number of historical sites have been located throughout the area. Records also suggest a local shipping history, some of which is represented by sunken vessels. The full extent of this is unknown at present.

## Guidelines:

- i) The existing sites should be recognized and protected against looting through preliminary historical zoning and enforcement. Sites to be retained for interpretive purposes should be appropriately secured against further deterioration.
- ii) Additional research should be undertaken to:
  - locate the underwater historical remains and record their condition;
  - determine the validity of the archaeological record.
- iii) Cooperative historical studies should be encouraged to obtain the assistance of the Township of the Archipelago, the local associations and the local residents in describing the park area and environs.

## CLIENT SERVICES

### INFORMATION

Because of the current use pressures on the area and the significance and sensitivity of park resources, every effort needs to be made to ensure that appropriate information is available to the public on the area spelling out the guiding philosophy and principles, pending a park management planning program being undertaken. In this respect, the Township and the local associations could assist the Ministry in distributing this information.

## Guideline:

An interim information brochure should be prepared for the area highlighting the importance of conserving and protecting the area, and outlining resource values, area purpose, land ownership patterns and acceptable uses, and the interim management strategy for such uses as canoeing, boating, camping, overnight mooring, day use, hunting, trapping, fishing, etc. This would be locally distributed.

### PARK SERVICES

There are and will continue to be many users of the area. It is desirable to ensure that there is a management presence at the park, to communicate with users, and also to build a good working relationship with local residents, consistent with the principles set out and the general philosophy enunciated in this document.

## Guidelines:

- i) That consideration be given to having a small, staffed, water access MNR service centre available in the summer months, to facilitate communications, monitoring of use, protection of resources and to foster 'good neighbour' relations with existing residents from the outset.
- ii) The location should be decided after careful study and consultation.

### RESEARCH

There will be a need for an ongoing inventory of the park area. In recognition of the long time that has passed since the park planning program started in 1973, a research program is needed to update data on the area. The following types of work should be undertaken leading up to the preparation of a Park Management Plan.

- user data on area (user groups and numbers)
- earth science/life science updates
- historical/archaeological updates
- inventory of shipwrecks
- carrying capacity (social and ecological).

### CONSULTATION

Consultation with the residents and the Township is an important issue, both from the outset and on an ongoing basis. Since the park lies entirely within one jurisdiction, the Township of the Archipelago, and particularly in recognition of the need for and importance of coordinated policies regarding land use and services, all significant issues should be discussed and reviewed with a Township/Ratepayer Liaison Committee during the interim planning period.

## Guidelines:

- i) All significant issues will be discussed with the Liaison Committee.
- ii) The Township will continue to be made aware of all land acquisitions within the Township to ensure coordination of land use policies.
- iii) The interim information brochure and other materials are to be prepared in cooperation with and in consultation with the Township and Ratepayer Associations.
- iv) Every effort will be made to foster resident support or cooperation.







## IMPLEMENTATION

### REGULATION

With the approval of this Interim Management Statement the existing candidate park area, with the modifications noted earlier, should be placed into Regulation under the Provincial Parks Act. This will facilitate the enforcement of appropriate management measures. Regulation is anticipated in May 1989. Under the Environmental Assessment Act, MNR will contact all adjacent landowners, and give notification of impending Regulation immediately prior to the approval of the Regulation and publication in the Ontario Gazette.

### OPERATIONS

The interim management of the area will be under the parks program out of the Parry Sound District Office. A seasonal superintendent could be assigned to the area for the summer months leading up to the preparation of a formal Park



Management Plan. This person's responsibility would be to assist in establishing a presence in the area, explain park policy, help solve current user conflicts, and enforce regulations.

### CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Within the philosophy and principles set out, a minimum capital development program should be undertaken to remedy existing problems. This would include:

- Upgrading facilities at picnic sites, and interior campsites;
- Upgrading the access point at Three Legged

- Lake (sanitary facilities and adequate parking);
- Production of a brochure oriented to the careful use of the area, and making it locally available with other information to the public;
- Repair and set up of the service centre.

### PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

A formal park management planning program should be undertaken within a reasonable time frame following the approval of this interim management statement. The importance of the resource base, ongoing use problems, growth in use and the need to protect

resource values suggests that a park management plan needs to be completed to guide future management as soon as possible. The following terms of reference outline the park management planning process that could be followed for this park area.

### A TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BLACKSTONE HARBOUR (MASSASAUGA WILDLANDS) PROVINCIAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

A provincial park management planning process was initiated in 1974 but was halted in 1976 due to changing priorities at the time. During that two year period public consultation was recognized as an integral part of the management planning process. Specific planning

publications were released at key points in the planning program, soliciting public response from interest groups, the media and individuals. A two-phase program was completed.

The Phase I publication outlined the management planning process, the role of public consultation, the phases anticipated, and a summary of the inventory data on park resources, market relationships, with other parks, and with major urban centres. The public was asked to identify information gaps, as well as basic issues that required resolution through the planning process.

The Phase II publication provided a concise analysis of the issues identified by the public response to Phase I, and the possible methods of resolving these issues. The response to Phase II provided direction for the evolution of park goals and objectives and the generation of plan alternatives.

During the period 1976-1985, there were three important advances. The first was the confirmation, through province-wide park systems planning, of the importance of this candidate park area to the provincial park system. The second was the establishment of the Township of the Archipelago and its adoption of an Official Plan and zoning by-law, basically supportive of protecting this area of Georgian Bay, including the park. The third was the extensive study and on-going liaison between the Ministry and the Municipality which has led to the philosophical consensus reflected in this document. This shift in concept for the area and the passage of

over fifteen years since planning was commenced in 1975 suggests that it is appropriate that the planning process be re-initiated.

The planning process connected with preparing a management plan follows a set of guidelines which include a formal public consultation process that fulfills the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. Park management planning would be conducted through the five stages illustrated in Table 3 (following page) and the final products would be a Park Management Plan and a Background Information Document.

### Plan Area

The study area would include only Crown land and areas purchased in the past by the crown (see centrefold map).

### Planning Team

Establishment of a planning team will include representatives from each affected or involved Ministry of Natural Resources' program. The efforts of this team will be inter-disciplinary and representative of all key interests. The purpose of this team is to undertake the professional tasks associated with the production of planning documents for public review.

The primary planning team will likely consist of a consultant, the Parry Sound District Park Supervisor and the Regional Recreation Planner. Others involved will include the





Table 3  
**THE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS**

Stage 1: Terms of Reference
<i>Writing the Terms of Reference including background, planning process and identifying a planning team, planning schedule and public consultation.</i>
Stage 2: Background Information
<i>Inventory and analysis of background resource data (land use, geology, vegetation communities, cultural resources, significant features, etc.) and the preparation and evaluation of concept plans based on draft policies and recommended uses identified in the District Land Use Guidelines and amended by user group discussions and described in the Interim Management Statement. The plans will show very conceptually the way in which the area could be managed.</i>
Stage 3: Preparation and Evaluation of A Preliminary Park Management Plan
<i>Taking the information and feedback from the public generated during Stage 2, a preliminary plan is written containing a goal, classification, objectives, zoning and management, operations and development policies for the area.</i>
Stage 4: The Park Management Plan
<i>After the analysis of public input a final park management plan is prepared, is reviewed, receives Ministry approval, and is printed and released to the public.</i>
Stage 5: Periodic Plan Review
<i>At least every ten years or when appropriate a management plan is reviewed. If major changes are identified, a public review process is undertaken to obtain public input to the proposed changes</i>

District Manager, the Regional Parks and Recreational Areas Coordinator, and other expertise that may provide information to the primary planning team.

workshops and special meetings) may be considered on a need basis to ensure effective public input to the planning process.

## Public Consultation

The following formal opportunities would be provided for general public consultation in the preparation of the Park Management Plan:

- An invitation to participate at the outset of the park management planning process by providing input to the background information gathering/analysis and concept plan preparation;
- An opportunity to review and comment on the preliminary park management plan; and
- An opportunity to receive the approved Blackstone Harbour Park Management Plan.

In addition, other appropriate consultation methods (e.g.

## Planning Schedule

Table 4 outlines the tentative planning schedule in the sequence normally used. It is not possible, at this time, to put precise time allocations for each stage.

It is recognized that the schedule must facilitate meaningful participation by residents and the public, and hence that "open houses" and "public information sessions" should be scheduled at appropriate times of the year and with sufficient notice to allow residents' associations and interest groups time to consider and respond to any proposals. The following tentative schedule should be reviewed with this objective in mind.

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Table 4  
**TENTATIVE PLANNING SCHEDULE**

Stage	Activity	Public Consultation
1	Terms of Reference (invitation to public)	(1) news release
2	Analysis of background data and preparation of concept plans	
3	Preparation and evaluation of preliminary management plan	(2) open house
	Review public comments	
4	Prepare recommended management plan	
	Approval of recommended plan	
	Approve, publish, release final management plan	(3) news release





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